

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION**

SHANDRIKA PIROZZI,	§	
Plaintiff	§	
	§	CIVIL ACTION NO.
vs.	§	
	§	
GC SERVICES, LP	§	
Defendant	§	

COMPLAINT

TO THE HONORABLE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE:

COMES NOW Shandrika Pirozzi, hereinafter referred to as Plaintiff complaining against GC Services, LP hereinafter referred to as Defendant and for cause of action would respectfully show unto the Court as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION AND JURISDICTION

1. This is an action for damages brought by an individual plaintiff for Defendant's violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, *et seq.* (hereinafter "FDCPA") and the Texas Business and Commerce Code, Subchapter E, Chapter 17, (hereinafter "DTPA"), which prohibit debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair practices. Plaintiff seeks to recover monetary damages for Defendant's violation of the FDCPA and the DTPA and to have an Order or injunction issued by this Court preventing Defendant from continuing its behavior in violation of the FDCPA. Jurisdiction of this Court arises

under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 1337 and venue is proper before this Court as Plaintiff and/or Defendant reside in this District and/or the complained of actions occurred in this District. Service may be made upon Defendant in any other district in which it may be found pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1132(e)(2).

2. Plaintiff, Shandrika Pirozzi, is a natural person and a “consumer” as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692(a)(3), the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act §17.45(4).

3. Defendant, GC Services, LP is a domestic corporation engaged in the business of collecting debts by use of the mails and telephone, and Defendant regularly attempts to collect debts alleged to be due another. Defendant is a “debt collector” as defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6) trying to collect a “debt” as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692(a)(5).

FIRST COUNT
FDCPA VIOLATIONS

4. At various and multiple times prior to the filing of the instant complaint, including within the one year preceding the filing of this Complaint, Defendant contacted Plaintiff in an attempt to collect an alleged outstanding debt. Defendant’s conduct violated the FDCPA in multiple ways, including but not limited to:

- a) Using false representations and unfair practices in connection with collection of an alleged debt from Plaintiff, including inducing Plaintiff to give her bank account information in order to make a smaller monthly payment, then reneging on the agreement to make

the smaller payments. Within the last 12 months, Plaintiff entered into a federal rehabilitation program in order to remove her account from default status. Pursuant to this agreement, Plaintiff was to pay \$168 per month to Defendant. Plaintiff had paid her monthly payments regularly for several months, when Defendant called her with surprising news. Defendants employee, Kenny, told Plaintiff that Sallie Mae (the original creditor) had decided that she could pay a smaller monthly payment and still qualify to remove her account from default status. The offer was not without strings attached, however. Defendant told Plaintiff that she must set up her bank account for automatic withdrawal in order to qualify for this lower payment amount. Plaintiff agreed to the deal and set up her bank account to have the smaller payments withdrawn automatically. Later, Defendant reneged on the agreement and refused to acknowledge that Plaintiff had an ongoing rehabilitation agreement with Defendant (§ 1692e(10) & § 1692f); and

- b) Using false representations and deceptive practices in connection with collection of an alleged debt from Plaintiff, including sending a letter on December 23, 2009, which false implied that Plaintiff

had not entered into any payment arrangements with Defendant (§ 1692e(10)).

5. As a result of the above violations of the FDCPA, Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer personal humiliation, embarrassment, mental anguish and emotional distress, and Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for Plaintiff's actual damages, statutory damages, and costs and attorney's fees.

SECOND COUNT
VIOLATION OF THE TEXAS DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES ACT

6. Plaintiff reincorporates by reference herein all prior paragraphs above.

7. This suit is brought, in part, under the authority of Tex. Bus. & Com. Code § 17.41 *et seq.*, commonly known as the Deceptive Trade Practices and Plaintiff Protection Act and cited in this petition as the "DTPA".

8. Defendant was given notice in writing of the claims made in this Petition more than sixty days before this suit was filed in the manner and form required by DTPA §17.505 (a).

9. Defendant made numerous material misrepresentations in an attempt to collect the purported debt as detailed above.

10. Defendant knew or should have known that its representations were false and/or acted in reckless disregard for the truth or falsity of its representations.

11. Defendant's actions were done maliciously and in willful, wanton and reckless disregard for the rights of the Plaintiff.

12. Defendant's actions as detailed above constitute a violation of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act, Tex. Bus. & Com. Code § 17.41.

13. The conduct described above has been and is a producing and proximate cause of damages to Plaintiff. Plaintiff's damages include: Actual/economic damages, emotional and/or mental anguish damages, exemplary/punitive damages, and Plaintiff's attorneys' fees and costs.

14. Additionally, Plaintiff seeks an award of discretionary additional damages in an amount not to exceed three times the amount of economic damages if Defendant's conduct is found to have been committed knowingly; or an amount not to exceed three times the amount of economic and mental anguish damages if Defendant's conduct is found to have been committed intentionally.

15. Plaintiff seeks reasonable and necessary attorney's fees in this case through the time judgment is entered and for any post-trial or post-judgment appeals, to be detailed through a statement of services submitted at the appropriate time.

THIRD COUNT
COMMON LAW INVASION OF PRIVACY BY INTRUSION

16. Plaintiff reincorporates by reference herein all prior paragraphs above.

17. Defendant's aforementioned violations of the FDCPA also constitute an intentional intrusion into Plaintiff's private places and into private matters of Plaintiff's life, conducted in a manner highly offensive to a reasonable person.

Plaintiff had a subjective expectation of privacy in the context of Defendant's actions that was objectively reasonable under the circumstances.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiff requests that Defendant be cited to appear and answer herein and upon final hearing hereof, Plaintiff has judgment of and against Defendant as follows:

- (a) a declaratory judgment be entered that Defendant's conduct violated the FDCPA;
- (b) an award of actual damages;
- (c) an award of statutory damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k;
- (d) an award of costs and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k; and,
- (e) a declaratory judgment be entered that Defendant's conduct violated the Texas deceptive Trade Practices Act;
- (f) an award for all actual damages, exemplary damages, emotional/mental anguish damages, all attorneys fees, costs of court, and pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the highest lawful rates.
- (g) seeks an award of discretionary additional damages in an amount not to exceed three times the amount of economic damages if Defendant's conduct is found to have been committed knowingly; or an amount not to

- exceed three times the amount of economic and mental anguish damages
if Defendant's conduct is found to have been committed intentionally.
- (h) such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/Dennis R. Kurz
Dennis R. Kurz
Texas State Bar # 24068183
Attorney in Charge for Plaintiff

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on April 2, 2010, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the clerk of the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston Division, using the electronic case filing system of the court.

/s/ Dennis R. Kurz
DENNIS R. KURZ